

March 12, 2009

Newsletter



Issue 8

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AIR STATION ATLANTIC CITY

Greetings from the Commander



**Captain
Paul S. Ratté**

**Commander,
Air Station Atlantic
City**

Rogue blizzards aside, we're starting (finally!) to see some signs of Spring—the season of new beginnings. For many on our team, months of wondering, interspersed with occasional periods of direct dialogue, have turned into actual orders received for next assignments. For those folks, congratulations on your orders and we stand ready to help you through the process of preparing for your upcoming move.

In step with the season, we've undertaken some new beginnings around the Air Station. A very important one is a revamping (and re-energizing) of our Human Relations Council or HRC. This group is focusing on raising awareness of diversity through celebrations and recognition campaigns for the varied cultures and groups that make up our team. Our HRC has partnered with the FAA to share cultural awareness programs and recently made Technical Center events, including an African American Art Show and a Performing Arts Choir from Somerset, NJ, available for attendance by Air Station members. They will continue to expand this partnership with an eye toward publicizing more cultural awareness events and also seek an expanded role in shaping them in the future. The group has also developed an innovative 'e-contest' that will run in March to inspire some light research to answer diversity-themed questions posted

around the unit and sent out by E-mail. A prizewinner for each round will be drawn from among those who send in the correct answer, and of course bragging rights as a "Champion of Diversity" will be gained by the person (or persons) who answer the most questions correctly during the month. The approach is designed to be light and fun. I hope it's also thought-provoking and helps underscore that becoming more vocal and aware about diversity in our workforce is enjoyable and beneficial.

Black History Month drew to a close with February's conclusion but March's designation as Women's History Month and inclusion of St. Patrick's Day provides ample context to keep the HRC's momentum in high gear. While the HRC is moving forward, I'd like to focus the remainder of this column on the February observance just concluded, by relating some notable African American milestones in Aviation and the Coast Guard. These were graciously compiled by the Chair of our HRC, Commander William Makell. Coming to me not long after our unit played a very significant role in providing security for the inauguration of our first African American President, I found these anecdotes really drew me in, made me proud and whet my appetite to learn more. I hope they do the same for you!

- **1921** - The world's first licensed African-American pilot, Bessie Coleman, was both African-American and female. She's remembered as an aviation pioneer for both groups. Coleman grew up in Texas, moved to Chicago, and got interested in flying after her brothers returned from World War I. Unable to find anyone in Chicago who would teach flying to a black woman, she moved to Paris, was ac-



IMPORTANT DATES:

- **MAR 17** – ST PATRICK'S DAY
- **MAR 20** - FIRST DAY OF SPRING
- **APRIL 11** – EASTER SUNDAY

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HEADLINES

The following articles contain press release excerpts from the District 5 public affairs website. For more, visit:

<http://www.coastguardd5publicaffairs.com>

Recognition for Heroism



Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Tye Conklin, a rescue swimmer from Air Station Atlantic City, N.J., was awarded the Air Medal by Capt. Paul Ratte on Friday, Jan. 9, 2009. The rest of the aircrew were also recognized; LT Clay Clary (pilot) and AMT2 Brett Oquist (Flight Mech) were awarded the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, and LT Bruce Kimmell (Copilot) was awarded the Coast Guard Achievement Medal. During the rescue, which happened last summer, the crew heroically performed two extremely hazardous search and rescue cases that ultimately resulted in three lives saved. After receiving a report that R/V Russell W. Peterson was taking on water and beginning to break apart with two people on board, the crew quickly launched into low visibility conditions and transited through category one hurricane strength winds, severe downdrafts, and intense turbulence. With the knowledge that one crewmember was unaccounted for, PO Conklin valiantly risked his life and headed below decks in the sinking vessel to find the crewmember incapacitated after sustaining massive trauma to his face and body. Running out of time, he carried the survivor to the deck above and quickly conducted two hoist recovery evolutions of crewmember and captain. During a separate sortie later that day, they were diverted for a report of a 37-foot sailing vessel foundering

in the surf near a jetty. Due to a dangerously high and swinging mast, the swimmer had to be deployed over 50 yards from the vessel. Displaying tremendous physical ability and fierce determination, he free swam through the 20-foot seas while still attached to the hoist cable in order to reach the sailboat and safely recover the survivor.

Atlantic City Helicopter Crews Support Inauguration

During the historic Inauguration of our new President, Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City was at the forefront in defending the airspace above. With over 2 million people descending upon Washington D.C., let alone the nature of the event, there was tremendous responsibility in meeting potential threats. The crews assigned to the Air Intercept mission performed valiantly as silent professionals behind the scenes, standing vigilant watch and ever ready to spring into action at any moment. As unprecedented as the inauguration itself, so was the Air Defense effort. Atlantic City aircrews performed the first ever rotary-wing air defense for a moving prohibited airspace - a 165 mile train route through 3 major cities. Great Job Air Station Atlantic City!



Coast Guard aircrew assists scientists for dolphin observations

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. - The Coast Guard worked with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration to conduct an aerial survey of the Shrewsbury and Navesink Rivers in northern New Jersey looking for bottlenose dolphins. A helicopter crew from Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City, N.J. took two NOAA scientists to look for the bottlenose dolphins that the agency has been monitoring in the area since June. Through sighting surveys from land and water, NOAA has documented location, overall condition, behavior and distinguishing features of each animal that allow identification of individuals. The survey was the first since ice formation in the rivers precluded water-based sighting surveys, last conducted on January 13 when five dolphins were confirmed to still be in the rivers.

Coast Guard crew medevacs deer hunter near Pomona, N.J.

POMONA, N.J. - On December 20, 2008 The Coast Guard medevaced a 50-year-old man who was injured after falling from a tree stand in the woods eight miles south of the Atlantic City International Airport in Pomona, N.J., near Makepeace Lake. The Coast Guard received a call at 11 a.m. from a member of the Hamilton Township Police Department requesting assistance to transport an injured deer hunter who fell about 25-feet from his tree stand. A helicopter crew from Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City, N.J. arrived on scene and hoisted the hunter aboard their helicopter and then transported him to AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center City Campus in Atlantic City for treatment.



CONGRATULATIONS

AWARDS

Air Medal

AST2 Tye Conklin

CG Commendation Medal

LT Clay Clary AMT2 Brett Oquist

CG Achievement Medal

LT Bruce Kimmel

Good Conduct Medal

AMTC Derrick Dade

AET1 Eric Godfrey

AET1 Brian Kilcoyne

AMT1 Shane Lavelle

AMT1 Robert Schumann

AST2 Tye Conklin

AMT2 Jonathan Dalstra

DC2 Chris Dodds

AMT2 Mark Huggins

AMT2 Ryan Isam

GM2 Robert Landolt

AMT2 Edgardo Melendez-Garcia

AMT2 Justin Perez

AET2 Josh Schiffer

AMT2 Brian Tricarico

AET2 Michael Wightman

AET3 Mathew Assenmacher YN3 Kris Lim

OS3 Chris Webb

SN Nathan Beechler

AN Ian Foster

Enlisted Petty Officer of the Quarter

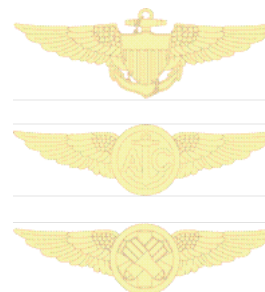
HS2 Erica Aberle

ADVANCEMENTS

AMT1 Joe Wagner

PROMOTIONS

LT Jonathan Mackin



FAA FLYING CLUB

Many AIRSTA Atlantic City Coasties are unaware of the opportunity available to them to use the flying club based adjacent the Air Station hanger. The FAA flying club is a non-profit organization that operates on the grounds of the FAA Technical Center. The club owns and operates a Piper Warrior and a Piper Arrow. Membership is available to all FAA, Coast Guard, Air Marshall, Air National Guard and civilian contractors operating out of the FAA technical center. The club currently has over 35 members, of which some are certified instructors and can provide training and lessons to those who are interested. There is a non-refundable initiation fee of \$300 to become a member as well as a monthly membership fee of \$30. In addition to fuel costs, hourly costs for each plane are \$65 and \$84 for the Warrior and the Arrow. For those interested in joining the club who already fly or would like to learn to fly, contact the FAA Flying Club at faafc@faaflyingclub.com.



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MORALE, WELL-BEING AND RECREATION (MWR)

Contact your Air Station MWR and TIRF Officers: LT Neal Corbin & LT Pete Taddeo - (609) 813-3852

Townsend Inlet Recreation Facility

Check out the Air Station's beautiful beach house in Sea Isle, NJ located one block from the Atlantic Ocean! Stay for a whole week or just a night. The facility is a former Coast Guard Boat House that has been modified into a four apartment coastal cottage. It is in the southern part of Sea Isle City, about 1.5 miles from Cape May, NJ, or 30 miles south of Atlantic City. Come see all the improvements to furnishings and the facility. Profits support your MWR programs! Contact Ms. Bobbi Colvin for reservations - (609) 263-3722 or visit the Air Station website at www.uscg.mil/d5/AirStation/Atlantic-City/htmls/about_us/mwr/mwr.html for rates and more information.



**SPRING IS ON THE WAY! UP
UNTIL MAY 1ST FOR EVERY
NIGHT YOU STAY AT OUR
RECREATIONAL FACILITY
YOU GET THE SECOND
NIGHT FOR FREE!**

See you MWR/TIRF office in Admin for more info.



!!!UPCOMING EVENTS!!! FOR DEPENDENTS

Saturday 4th, April– EASTER EGG HUNT

Come join us at the Air Station for an MWR sponsored Easter Egg Hunt, children's bounce house and refreshments.

(Contact LT Corbin or members of the spouses club for the specific details)

**August 4th, -Mark your calendars for
Coast Guard Day. Event plans to follow in
next edition.**

Here's to the Heroes (extended through 2009) provides a single day's free admission to any SeaWorld or Busch Gardens park, Sesame Place, Adventure Island or Water Country USA for the service member and as many as three direct dependents.

Any active duty, active reserve, ready reserve service member or National Guardsman is entitled to free admission under the program. He or she need only register, either online at www.herosalute.com or in the entrance plaza of a participating park, and show a Department of Defense photo ID. To learn more about the Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks, visit www.4adventure.com or call toll-free (800) 4-ADVENTURE.



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MORALE, WELL-BEING AND RECREATION (MWR) OUTSIDE THE AIR STATION

Contact your Air Station MWR and TIRF Officers: LT Neal Corbin & LT Pete Taddeo - (609) 813-3852

Disney Parks Celebrate U.S. Military

With Free, Multi-day Admission to Theme Parks in 2009

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida / ANAHEIM, California (January 4, 2009) – As Disney Parks ask “What Will You Celebrate?” and invite guests to turn their personal milestones into magical family vacations in 2009, America’s military personnel will have one more reason to celebrate: Free multi-day admission to Disney’s U.S. theme parks.

With the “Disney’s Armed Forces Salute” offer, active and retired U.S. military personnel, including active members of the United States Coast Guard and activated members of the National Guard or Reservists, can enjoy complimentary, multi-day admission into Disney’s U.S. theme parks, great rates at select Walt Disney World and Disneyland Resort hotels, and additional special ticket offers for family members and friends.

“For so many of the men and women who serve in our U.S. military, time together with their families is cause enough for celebration,” said Jay Rasulo, chairman of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. “We are grateful for their service and hope ‘Disney’s Armed Forces Salute’ will allow our troops to create wonderful, magical memories with their family and friends.”

At the Walt Disney World Resort in Florida

From January 4 to December 23, 2009, each active or retired member of the U.S. military may obtain one complimentary five-day “Disney’s Armed Forces Salute” ticket with *Park Hopper* and *Water Park Fun & More* options. This ticket is valid for five days of admission into the four Walt Disney World theme parks, plus a total of five visits to a choice of a Disney water park, DisneyQuest Indoor Interactive Theme Park or certain other attractions. During this offer period, active or retired U.S. military personnel may also make a one-time purchase of up to a maximum of five, five-Day “Disney’s Armed Forces Salute Companion” tickets for \$99 per ticket, plus tax, for family members (including spouse) or friends. Although this ticket for family members and friends does not include either the *Park Hopper* or *Water Park Fun & More* options, this ticket can be upgraded to add either such option, or both, for an additional \$25, plus tax, per option. All tickets and options are non-transferable and must be used by Dec. 23, 2009.

FREE DISNEY TICKETS FOR ACTIVE DUTY AND RETIREES

HUGE DISCOUNT FOR UP TO 5 ADDITIONAL TICKETS FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

Military Sales offers a greater discount on the tickets! The companion ticket for a 5 day base pass - \$90, companion with park hopper - \$112.60, companion with water park fun & more options - \$112.60, and companion with hopper, water park fun, & more options- \$135.10. These prices are available only at the Cape May MWR Office and must be ordered a minimum of 2 weeks in advance. Remember this offer is available to both active duty and retirees!

TRACEN Cape May MWR

Cape May has assorted recreation equipment for rent. - \$40, pop-up campers - \$12, canoes - \$3, kayaks - \$3, and small sailboats - \$5 for rent.

Contact TRACEN MWR at (609) 898-6922 or http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/activeduty/MWR_Equip.asp





New Learning Center Open

The new Air Station Learning Center is open near the classroom in the Modular Unit. The Leadership Library is there with new titles in aviation test prep, CLEP and other exam study guides along with leadership and Coast Guard related titles. There are currently four desks available for quiet study or homework and there will soon be computer workstations and more furniture.

End-of-Course Testing Schedule

End of Course Testing (EOCT) for all rating and EPME exams are being held in the learning center on Tuesdays at 1300 and Thursdays at 1500. Please sign up by sending an email to:

d05-pf-airstaacity-eso@uscg.mil

or on the sign-up sheet in the learning center.

ESO Email Address

For the fastest possible answer to your burning Education, Career, or Professional Development question, send an email to:

d05-pf-airstaacity-eso@uscg.mil

TRACEN Cape May offers Career & Education Workshops

From the TRACEN Cape May ESO, Mr. Andy Webb:

I'm currently holding a series of informal workshops on the following topics:

- Education Assessments – how to find out how many college credits you've acquired through military service
- Tuition Assistance – how to apply for the Coast Guard's Tuition Assistance (TA), what it can be used for, etc.
- ASVAB – how to find out what schools you currently qualify for, re-taking specific tests, how to study for it
- Enlisted-to-Officer programs – learn what programs are available, how to apply, deadlines, etc.
- Financial assistance for dependents – learn what's available, how to find it, etc.

We're rotating through the above list. Last week, we covered Tuition Assistance; next week it'll be re-taking ASVAB tests. After I've covered all five topics, we'll start the rotation over again.

The Education Assessments, Tuition Assistance, and ASVAB workshops will be held in the Learning Resource Center (computer lab) on the first deck of Munro Hall at 1300 on Wednesdays or elsewhere (as announced if recruits have it booked). The others will be held in the Education & Career Development Center (Admin Bldg, Rm 113) starting at 1130 on Wednesdays. You're welcome to bring your lunch to the 1130 workshops.

These workshops will be open for anyone who's interested in and/or who has questions about the topic. All you have to do is show up. Each workshop will be announced in this newsletter each week.

Income Tax Deduction/Credit & TA

If you used TA to pay for one or more courses in calendar year 2008, you may receive from your school an official-looking statement showing how much you and the Coast Guard paid to your school for tuition (IRS form 1098-T). This is provided in case you're eligible for education-related deductions from and credits to your income tax. Be aware that only money you personally paid to the school can be used to determine if you qualify for one of them. That is, tuition assistance (and GI Bill funds) can't be included, since that money was an education benefit, not part of your earned income.

You can find an overview of these deductions and credits at <http://www.nasfaa.org/redesign/taxbenefitsguide.html>. And the IRS publication which goes into depth about them is at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf>.

Satellite Exchange:

The Air Station is in the process of opening up a unit Satellite Exchange. This exchange will be similar to a unit's "ship store" and will offer regular Coast Guard apparel, Air Station unit specific apparel, unit patches, ball caps, and many other types of merchandise. For now, contact LTJG Hedges if you need a new unit ball cap, unit patch, or Coast Guard t-shirt (both long and short sleeve). Expect the exchange to be open three times throughout the week. Any merchandise recommendations for the exchange can be made by notifying LTJG Hedges or YN1 Braymiller in Admin.

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Honor, Respect & Devotion to Duty

Helpful Contact Information & Links



ON THE WEB:

- **AIRSTA ATLANTIC CITY**
www.uscg.mil/d5/AirStation/AtlanticCity/index.html
- **CG SPOUSES SITE**
<http://coastiechicks.net/homeportmerocklandretiredchick.html>
- **MILITARY SPOUSE EDUCATION**
<http://www.nmfa.org>
- **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
<http://www.va.gov/>
- **TRICARE**
<http://www.mytricare.com/internet/tric/tri/tricare.nsf>
- **US FAMILY HEALTH PLAN** <http://www.usfhp.net>
- **DEERS** <http://www.tricare.mil/deers/default.cfm>
- **DENTAL**
<http://www.tricaredentalprogram.com/tdptws/home.jsp>
- **LOCAL DENTAL**
Seaview Dental (609) 652-9020

ON THE PHONE:

Air Station 24 Hour Emergency Contact

- 24 Hour Info Line (Haz Weather/Work Call Info): (609)-677-2030
- Operations Duty Officer ---> (609) 677-2226/7

Air Station Clinic (Active Duty Members)

- Duty Health Services Technician --> (609) 402-6201
- Normal Hours Clinic Phone --> (609) 677-2007

Poison Control

- Emergency Hotline --> (800) 222-1222

Ombudsman

- Lisa Davis --> (609) 788-8222
- Dawn Schol --> (609) 272-8555

Continued from page 1...

cepted to aviation school, and on June 15, 1921 received her pilot's license from the Federation Aeronautique Internationale.

- **1957** - Bobby C. Wilks became the first African American Coast Guard aviator (Coast Guard aviator No. 735). He accumulated over 6,000 flight hours in 18 different types of aircraft and was the project officer for the Sikorsky HH-3 helicopter when first delivered to the Coast Guard in the 1960s. In 1977, he became the first African American to reach the rank of Captain in the Coast Guard and the first to command a Coast Guard Air Station.
- Ron Roberts was the Coast Guard's first black Rescue Swimmer (ASM) and retired as CPO.
- **1978** - Manson K. Brown became the first Black Regimental Commander in the 101-year history of the Coast Guard Academy. Nowadays, Rear Admiral Brown commands the Coast Guard 14th District in Honolulu, HI.
- **1983** - Angela Dennis and Daphne Reese became the first Black female graduates of the Coast Guard Academy.
- **1998** - Erroll M. Brown, CGA Class of '72 became the first Black admiral in the Coast Guard.
- **2005** - Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Jeanine McIntosh, received her wings at a ceremony at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi upon completing her flight training there. She is the first Black female Coast Guard aviator.

2007 - Second Class (junior year) Cadet DeCarol Davis was named one of 65 Truman Scholars for 2007 by the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation. Davis was selected from candidates nominated from 280 colleges and universities nationwide. She is not only the first African-American cadet to receive this award, but the first CGA cadet to do so in the Academy's history.

Commanding Officer
U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City
Atlantic City International Airport (Bldg. 350)
Pomona, NJ 08405